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*Plans for Political Reform  
in Imperial Russia, 1730-1905*

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## *Russian Civilization Series*

*Editors*

MICHAEL CHERNIAVSKY

IVO J. LEDERER

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*Plans for Political Reform  
in Imperial Russia, 1730-1905*



MARC RAEFF  
*Columbia University*

PRENTICE-HALL, INC., *Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey*

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## Foreword to the Series

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The presentation of Russian history and civilization in this country has been shaped to a significant extent by the absence of adequate original source materials. Linguistic competence in Russian remains today indispensable for advanced training and research. It is regrettable, however, that the majority of students interested in Russia but not in command of the language should be denied opportunities for delving into the raw materials of Russian history.

Our purpose is thus relatively simple: to make widely available important Russian sources and to help remove Russian studies from the realm of the arcane and the exotic. Each volume in the series is designed to present source material on a significant problem of a given period—medieval, Imperial, or Soviet. Each volume, moreover, involves a careful translation and basic annotation so as to be intelligible to the undergraduate or the general reader and of scholarly use to the graduate student, to teachers, and to non-Russian specialists.

The series, spanning both the Tsarist and Soviet eras, concentrates on hitherto untranslated sources. In the main, too, it presents them in full text and without abridgment so as to expose both flavor and meaning in a document, memoir, or treatise. In this the

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series deliberately differs from the documentary collections usually found in one-volume compendia covering long periods and many themes.

The introductory essay in each volume places the issues and sources in their larger context. The essays are designed to provide guidance to the reader and generate new approaches to the understanding of the distant and recent Russian past.

*Michael Cherniavsky*

*Ivo J. Lederer*

## *Preface*

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The projects presented in this book have been selected from among a much larger number of plans available for two basic reasons: (1) they were relatively well known in Russia and, therefore, could be assumed to have had an impact on the thinking of officials and leaders of public opinion, and (2) they are relatively compact and clear. In the 18th and early 19th centuries men wrote at inordinate length, and not too clearly; many projects and proposals for reform could not be used here because they were too long and full of confusing and unclear technical detail. It was felt that documents dealing with general political problems, rather than with institutional and organizational details, would be more meaningful and useful for an understanding of Russian political thinking.

The translations have been made from the most complete and authoritative versions available. The dates are those of the original, i.e., according to the Julian calendar in use in Russia until 1918, which lagged behind the Gregorian calendar by eleven days in the 18th century, twelve days in the 19th century, and thirteen days in the 20th century. The following symbols occur in the text:



...	omission by editor
[ ]	insertion by editor
( )	parentheses in original
// //	summary or paraphrase by editor
/ /	additions or earlier wording in the original

The abbreviation PSZ is used in the text and notes for *Polnoe Sobranie Zakonov Rossiiskoi Imperii* (Complete Collection of the Laws of the Russian Empire), 1st series, St. Petersburg, 1833.

I wish to thank the Russian Institute of Columbia University for technical assistance and Prentice-Hall for editorial supervision and advice.

Marc Raeff

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